

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: CONTEL OF MINNESOTA, INC., d/b/a GTE MINNESOTA, AND CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF MINNESOTA, INC.	DOCKET NO. SPU-00-13
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**ORDER APPROVING JOINT APPLICATION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF
SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATE**

(Issued August 16, 2000)

On July 7, 2000, Contel of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a GTE Minnesota (GTE-M), and Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. (CTC-M) (collectively, Joint Applicants), filed a joint application pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.20 (1999) for discontinuance of service and Iowa Code § 476.29 for transfer of a certificate. The Joint Applicants state that CTC-M has entered into an asset purchase agreement to acquire all of GTE-M's local exchange properties in the state of Minnesota. Approximately 290 Iowa customers are served from the Minnesota exchanges being transferred. The asset purchase will result in the discontinuance of service to those Iowa customers by GTE-M and continuation of the existing service by CTC-M.

The Joint Applicants ask to have the certificate of public convenience and necessity presently issued to GTE-M for service in the exchanges of Adams, Bigelow, Keister, LeRoy, and Lyle (Minnesota exchanges) transferred to CTC-M. The Joint Applicants further seek Utilities Board (Board) approval of the proposed

discontinuance of service by GTE-M in the exchanges listed above. The Joint Applicants state that neither GTE-M nor CTC-M is a rate regulated local exchange carrier in Iowa.

Iowa Code § 476.20 provides in relevant part that a utility shall not discontinue service to a community unless permission to do so is obtained from the Board. Rule 199—7.12(5) states that an application to discontinue service incident to a utility property transfer will be granted "if the board finds the transferee is ready, willing, and able to provide comparable utility service." Finally, Iowa Code § 476.29(3) provides for transfer of a local exchange certificate of public convenience and necessity, subject to the Board's approval pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.20(1).

CTC-M states that it is ready, willing, and able to provide comparable utility service to the exchanges. Additionally, a letter filed by the joint applicants on July 25, 2000, verifies that any service requirements ordered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), applicable to CTC-M, would be fully applicable to the Iowa customers served by the CTC-M exchanges. The service quality requirements ordered by the MPUC are similar to the service quality requirements the Board ordered for Citizens Telecommunications of Iowa in Docket No. SPU-99-31.

No objections to the joint application have been filed with the Board.

Based upon the record before it, the Board finds that CTC-M is ready, willing, and able to provide utility service in the Iowa areas of the Adams, Bigelow, Keister, Leroy, and Lyle exchanges in Minnesota that is comparable to the service presently provided by GTE-M. The Board approves GTE-M's application to discontinue service

to the exchanges, pursuant to 199 IAC 7.12 and Iowa Code § 476.20(1) (1999). The Board also approves the request to transfer GTE-M's certificate to serve these exchanges to CTC-M, pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.29(3) (1999). CTC-M will be allowed to adopt the existing tariff of GTE-M, but all future tariff revisions must reflect the name change. CTC-M will be required to file map revisions and a statement that 2-PIC dialing parity is available to the affected Iowa customers within 30 days of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The joint application for approval of discontinuance of service and transference of certificate, filed July 7, 2000, by Contel of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a GTE Minnesota, and Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc., is approved.
2. A certificate identified as Certificate No. 0219 is issued to Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc., with this order.
3. A cancellation of certificate, identified as Certificate No. 0165, issued to Contel of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a GTE Minnesota, accompanies this order.
4. Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc., is directed to file map revisions and a statement of 2-PIC dialing parity availability within 30 days of this order.

5. Adoption of the existing tariff of Contel of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a GTE Minnesota, is approved. Any new tariff revisions must reflect the name of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 16th day of August, 2000.